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FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 108

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Note by the Chairman

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 108 (Programme planning) to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the proposed revisions to each programme of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 would be submitted to the Assembly in plenary meeting or to the appropriate Main Committee for review.

2. To date, the General Assembly and three Committees, the Second, Fourth and Sixth Committees, have submitted to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee the results of actions taken by those bodies. The substantive portions of their letters are reproduced below in annexes I to IV to the present document, along with the relevant attachments. Communications from the other Committees, once received, will be issued as addenda to the present document.

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Annex I

LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

At the 2nd and 10th meetings, on 5 and 26 October 1994, respectively, I drew attention of the members of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan 1992-1997 in relation to programmes 8 (Peaceful uses of outer space) and 39 (Public information) and requested them to submit, in writing, their views on some of the issues contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the programmes concerned.

In that connection, I wish to inform you that I have not received any views from the members.

(Signed) Borys M. HUDYMA

Annex II

LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 26 September 1994 seeking the views of the Sixth Committee on the proposed revisions to the relevant programmes of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Having examined the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the second part of its thirty-fourth session, 1/ the Committee has noted that no revisions have been proposed to the programmes of the medium-term plan that may be relevant to the Sixth Committee.

Consequently, the Committee has no views to forward to the Fifth Committee on this matter.

(Signed) George O. LAMPTEY

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/49/16).

Annex III

LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

With regard to your letter dated 28 September 1994, concerning the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, I have the honour to inform you that I have received the attached comments from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations on programme 6 (Elimination of apartheid).

(Signed) Amara ESSY

Appendix

LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

South Africa lauds the achievement by the international community, in cooperation with the people of South Africa, of the objectives of programme 6 of major programme 1 of the medium-term plan, entitled "Elimination of apartheid".

With the achievement of the objectives of this programme, the item entitled "Elimination of apartheid and establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa" has finally been removed from the agenda of this august body. South Africa fully supports the termination of this programme and the redeployment of resources previously allocated to the programme within the Africa Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat.

The people of South Africa are confident that the international community will not now abandon them in their struggle against the legacy of disadvantage and underdevelopment that apartheid has inflicted on their young democracy.

The people of South Africa express their gratitude to the international community for its continued attention to the elimination of that legacy.

Annex IV

LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I have the honour to enclose, for your appropriate action, a letter dated 28 October 1994, addressed to me by H.E. Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, regarding agenda item 108 entitled "Programme planning". This is in reply to your letter dated 27 September 1994, addressed to me transmitting the letter of the Chairman of the Fifth Committee on this subject (A/C.2/49/2).

(Signed) Sher Afgan KHAN

Appendix

LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

I have the honour to refer to document A/C.2/49/2, containing the letter dated 26 September 1994 from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee to the Chairman of the Second Committee regarding agenda item 108 (Programme planning). The Chairman of the Second Committee has requested members of the Committee to convey their views in writing regarding the letter of the Chairman of the Fifth Committee. In this connection, the Group of 77 and China would like to stress the following.

In general terms, the Group of 77 and China wish to call attention to the fact that the process of revising the medium-term plan, which has been started by the Secretariat in accordance with the mandates emanating from intergovernmental bodies, should be the object of a consultative process within the pertinent Main Committees before the proposals are submitted for the consideration of the coordinating and budgetary bodies as well as the Fifth Committee. This would facilitate the decision-making process of these bodies since the new proposals would already have the approval of the Main Committees.

Furthermore, the above procedure would preclude any unilateral modification by the Secretariat of the guidelines emanating from intergovernmental decisions in the biennial revision of the medium-term plan.

One procedure that would facilitate knowledge of the origins and bases of the proposed revisions would be for the Secretariat to indicate, in each specific case, the legislative mandates supporting each proposal for deletion or addition. This is all the more important in cases in which the proposed revisions stem from mandates of bodies of restricted membership such as working groups. In such cases it would suffice to indicate the General Assembly resolution or resolutions that support it, or alternatively, the decisions of the relevant bodies.

The comments made by the Group of 77 and China centre around the revisions to programme 11, Overall issues and policies including coordination, programme 12, Global development issues and policies, and programme 21, Public administration and finance, which fall under major programme IV, International economic cooperation for development.

The Group of 77 and China stress that the mandates derived from General Assembly resolutions 44/215, 46/210 and 48/168, regarding the use of economic measures as a means of exerting political and economic pressure against developing countries, should be incorporated in subprogramme 1 of programme 11 and, in this regard, would also make reference to the note of the Secretary-General regarding the implementation of resolution 46/210.

With respect to programme 12, the Group endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the second part of its thirty-fourth session on programme and coordination and hopes

that they will be taken into account in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly on this subject.

The Group of 77 and China are of the view that the proposals for a new programme (programme 21, Public administration and finance) presented by the Secretariat could lead to a reorientation not approved by the General Assembly and therefore has no legislative basis.

Bearing in mind the importance of the process of drawing up a medium-term plan, the Organization's main policy paper, the rules and procedures that govern its preparation by the Secretariat should be respected.